

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006**

**WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM)**

**845 PARK AVENUE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:00 P.M.**

**PUBLIC SESSION: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MINUTES**

**A special meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date in the William A. Briggs Building in the Reed Conference Room with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Mr. Palumbo was absent due to illness. Also present were Mr. Votto, Mr. Balducci, Mr. Scherza, and Mr. Nero.**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Law 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel and PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Contract and Litigation.**

**Mr. Lupino, acting Chair, reconvened public session at 5:51 p.m.**

**The roll was called.**

**Mr. Lupino stated that Mr. Palumbo was excused from this meeting.**

## **I. Executive Session Minutes Sealed – May 22, 2006**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the May 22, 2006 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.**

## **II. Public Hearing**

**a. Students (Agenda/Non-agenda Matters)**

**b. Members of the Public (Agenda Matters Only)**

**There were no student speakers on agenda or non-agenda matters.**

**Thomas Dorsey, Resolution No. 06-6-1 – Mr. Dorsey stated that he just found out about this Resolution this afternoon. He doesn't know a lot about it other than the fact that the committee may be forming a committee to study school usage, gyms, etc. Since CLCF may be one of the largest users and one of the largest generators of revenue, he asked that a representative from CLCF serve on the committee should they need someone. It doesn't necessarily have to be him. It would be up to the**

**President of CLCF to ask or appoint someone. Mr. Lupino commented that the School Committee would keep that under advisement during their discussion.**

### **III. Consent Calendar/Consent Agenda**

**Mr. Lupino stated that Resolution No.'s 06-6-2, 06-6-3, and 06-6-4 would appear under the Consent Agenda.**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

##### **PERSONNEL**

**NO. 06-6-2 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Working Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and Local RI-153 of National Government Employees (NAGE) be approved.**

**NO. 06-6-3 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, said certified personnel be recalled from termination, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the Superintendent notify those teachers of the Committee's actions.**

**NO. 06-6-4 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel**

**be accepted:**

**Daniel P. Kelley, Assistant Principal**

**Cranston High School East**

**Effective Date: June 30, 2006**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that these Resolutions be adopted.**

**Mr. Scherza stated that it was with regret that he would have recommended the acceptance of Dan Kelley's resignation. He is one of the rising stars, but the Smithfield School Department saw that as well. They had a vacancy for a principal; he was one of the district's assistant principals doing an excellent job in a great capacity. He has been involved in quite a few things here, and he very honestly and very sincerely will be missed.**

#### **IV. Action Calendar / Action Agenda**

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**SPONSORED BY MR. TRAFICANTE**

**NO. 06-6-1 – Whereas, since our public facilities belong to Cranston’s taxpayers, and**

**Whereas, since the plant facilities are established, maintained, and operated by funds largely provided by local taxes, and**

**Whereas, since the Cranston School Committee accepts the responsibility for making its facilities available to responsible organizations, associations, and individuals of the community for appropriate civic, cultural, educational, recreational, and welfare activities which do not and cannot infringe upon nor interfere with the conduct, programs, and activities of the school system, and**

**Whereas, the Cranston Public Schools encourages the use of its facilities for a variety of community and student activities, and**

**Whereas, such activities require custodial coverage and compensation for such coverage,**

**Be it RESOLVED that a Study Committee be established by the Cranston School Committee consisting of two (2) members of the committee, the Director of Plant Operations for Cranston Public Schools, and the Assistant Superintendent of Schools or his representative, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the Study Committee review the current**

**School Use Policy, enhance the policy wherever necessary, investigate the variety of organizations currently utilizing school facilities and their user fees, and create, if necessary, a fair and equitable policy for compensation for custodial coverage for such activities, and**

**Be it further RESOLVED that the Study Committee report back to the Cranston School Committee no later than the September 2006 School Committee Work Session.**

**Moved by Mrs. Greifer and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.**

**Mr. Traficante explained that this Resolution is self-explanatory. The intent of the mission of the Resolution is spelled out in the next to the last paragraph which is to investigate the variety of organizations that utilize all of the school department's facilities not only the gymnasiums. It would investigate the user fees and create, if necessary, a fair and equitable policy that will compensate the school department for any kind of coverage that is necessary and perhaps generate some revenue. The Study Committee has to report back to the School Committee at the work session in September. With regard to the nomenclature of the committee, he would leave it to the wisdom of the board.**

**Mrs. Greifer commented that she appreciated Mr. Dorsey's interest, but she didn't think that it would be possible to have as a member of the committee anyone who might be subject to resulting fees. Mr. Lupino agreed with Mrs. Greifer's comments. He indicated that Mr. Dorsey had claimed that CLCF spends approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000 in user fees for Cranston Public Schools, and Mr. Zisseron indicated that he was correct. Mr. Lupino asked who the other major players were, and Mr. Zisseron responded that Edgewood girls' basketball participates; PTG's pay a nominal fee for custodial coverage; and many fall under the umbrella of CLCF but operate as a separate organization under the umbrella. Some of their groups include girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and indoor soccer. They are all on their own to book gym time. With indoor soccer, he deals with seven or eight people. He thought they would be setting a precedent having someone from an organization on the committee looking into user fees. Mr. Lupino felt that at some point in time after this committee has met once or twice that Mr. Zisseron send out a letter inviting some of the major players to the table to get some input or to get input verbally or through the mail prior to meeting as opposed to a person actually participating where they will be participating in a situation where they will talk about user fees.**

**Mr. Traficante stated that some organizations do not pay, and he has**

a concern about this. Mr. Lupino mentioned Kids Klub and the after-school programs which he is still interested in expanding throughout the city, whether it is Kids Klub or anyone else who is offering these programs. The way it was presented to the School Committee they would be paying an amount of all costs up to and including electricity for the time they use the buildings. He doesn't see where this has been happening. He directed the committee to look into this. Mr. Traficante added that some of the organizations are using the schools in the morning as well. He said that he was not discouraging programs but rather encouraging them, but it has to be fair and equitable for all the groups.

Mr. Stycos stated that it was a good idea. Rental for the school facilities is something that causes a lot of conflict basically because there are a lot of groups that don't have a lot of money, and they think they are getting charged. If they are charged \$1.00, it would be a conflict. He doesn't think there is anything wrong with what is going on, but the for-profit groups bother him. He stated that it would be a good idea to have a CLCF representative on the committee and anyone else who is a major player in this issue. That is the way these commissions work at the State House. They put all the people who are involved in the issue on the commission. All the opinions are there, and hopefully something comes out of it that everyone feels they have a piece of. It makes sense to have CLCF on the committee along with the City Recreation Director because he is somewhat the titular head of the Recreation Advisory Committee that Mr. Stycos sits

on. He has a lot of the same pressures on him that Mr. Zisseron has with the gyms. That is why he would be a good addition.

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Mr. Lupino mentioned to Mr. Traficante that he was assuming that when he said equal playing field that the committee would look into sub categories. There are parent teacher groups that are there for the benefit of bringing revenue to the schools; there are non-profits such as scout groups; reported not-for-profit CLCF which he knows does make money; and there are other for-profit groups that want to do something. The committee may categorize them and then make an equal rental rate from that.

Mr. Stycos moved to amend this Resolution as follows: To add someone to this committee that is selected by CLCF. He wanted to make sure it was reflected in the minutes that someone would be "selected by." Mr. Traficante asked what other organizations use the facilities other than CLCF, and Mr. Zisseron responded that with regard to youth groups, Edgewood Eagles cheerleaders, CLCF cheerleaders, and Edgewood girls' basketball use the facilities.

Mr. Traficante suggested that there be representation from the other youth groups as well. Mr. Zisseron responded that he did not want them to serve on this committee. Mr. Traficante mentioned that there

couldn't be one organization and the others be left out. Ms. Iannazzi commented that there should be none represented on the committee. Mrs. Greifer agreed. Mr. Archetto suggested that members of the opposing philosophy should be on the committee if they want a consensus. Mr. Traficante stated that he had no problem with the Recreation Director serving on the committee. The city shares a lot of recreational activities with the school department. Mrs. Greifer added that the committee should be inviting all those constituencies. Mr. Zisseron asked why the Director of Recreation should serve on the committee, and Mr. Lupino explained that they also use the school department's buildings. Mr. Zisseron stated that the city doesn't get charged because they do things for the school department. The Director of Recreation is very active with Edgewood girls' basketball. Mr. Stycos stated that if the committee wanted a wide range of opinions, they have to go outside the school department. The committee consists of two members of the School Committee, the Director of Plant Operations, and the Assistant Superintendent. If the goal is to do what they want to do, then don't add anyone. If they want opinions, they have to get representatives from outside the school department. He would be fine with other groups. If one group is to get picked, he thought CLCF was the largest so that is the reason they would be picked. The City Recreation deals with these issues, and he is talking to the same constituency about the fields, and he may have some good suggestions.

**Mrs. Greifer said that she couldn't imagine that the committee wouldn't be looking for some input to do research from as many constituencies as possible. Mr. Traficante commented that as part of this resolution once a potential policy has been established a forum could be conducted inviting all users to participate in that forum for input. Mr. Lupino suggested that the committee could meet in order to set some parameters. At**

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**the third session, they could invite those groups to get information from them. The policy would not be skewed to any one group.**

**This amendment failed. No one seconded Mr. Stycos' motion.**

**Mr. Stycos moved to amend this Resolution as follows: That the City Director of Recreation or his designee be a member of this committee.**

**Mr. Archetto seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Lupino stated that he thought this would be a conflict. Mr. Stycos responded that there is a conflict with Mr. Zisseron and the School Committee members being on the committee.**

**This Amendment failed with Mr. Archetto and Mr. Stycos in favor; Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, and Mr. Stycos were opposed.**

**This Resolution was adopted unanimously.**

**Mr. Lupino stated that Mr. Traficante and Mrs. Greifer would represent the School Committee on this committee.**

#### **V. New Business**

**There was no new business.**

#### **VI. Public Hearing on Non-agenda Items**

**There were no speakers on non-agenda items.**

#### **VII. Announcement of Future Meetings**

**Mr. Lupino stated that a meeting of the School Buildings Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. Cranston East Honors will be held on Wednesday, May 24th, Cranston West Honors on Thursday, May 25th, and Bain Memorial Program on Friday, May 26th.**

## **VIII. Adjournment**

**Moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.**

**There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at**

**6:12 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Anthony J. Lupino**

**Clerk**